

## **Announcement of the National Defense Service Medal**

The Department of Defense announced that servicemembers on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to receive the National Defense Service Medal. The National Defense Service Medal may also be awarded to members of the Reserve components who are ordered to federal active duty, regardless of duration, except for certain categories. While no closing date has been established, eligible servicemembers can receive the award immediately. The National Defense Service Medal was first established by President Eisenhower in 1953, and was subsequently awarded for honorable active service for any period between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974, and between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995. Individuals can purchase the National Defense Service Medal at the clothing sales store.

### **NO Early Reporting Authorized for FY 03**

Effective immediately, enlisted soldiers with a reporting date on or after 1 October 2002 are not authorized to report earlier than 1 October 2002. Repeat movement of assignments from FY03 to FY02 is not authorized. Soldiers who are scheduled for TDY enroute training are not authorized to report earlier than the designated class reporting date. Authorized exceptions are those Command Sergeants Major who were directed to report early to avoid a shortfall. Requests for exception must be forwarded to: [TAPCEPS@HOFFMAN.ARMY.MIL](mailto:TAPCEPS@HOFFMAN.ARMY.MIL)

### **6 Months Stabilization on Return From Korea**

After completing a tour in Korea or other dependent-restricted areas, soldiers will now be stabilized from operational deployments for six months at their new duty station. Before the most recent revision, the Deployment Stabilization policy only affected soldiers who had participated in "Operations other than War" deployments for a period of at least 30 consecutive days.

Personnel officials said the stabilization program -- which applies to both officer and enlisted personnel -- was expanded to allow soldiers time to reacquaint themselves with families and provide time to readjust to home station. It also rewards soldiers for arduous periods of duty in which they were separated from family members.

### **Assignment Satisfaction Key (ASK) and Soldier Assignment Module (SAM)**

The Assignment Satisfaction Key (ASK) is a web-based, interactive system available through PERSCOM online that allows enlisted soldiers to view and update their assignment information and preferences on-line. Soldiers use their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account password to gain access. ASK was fielded in October 2001 and since that time, more than 40,000 soldiers have identified their assignment preference and volunteer locations. Our goal is to have every soldier use ASK.

SAM is a recent Army transformation initiative that enables the assignment and career managers at PERSCOM to identify all the open requirements that soldiers may be eligible for, and provides the capability to identify the most eligible soldier for an assignment.

### **Green to Gold Scholarships**

Scholarships are awarded for two, three, or four years. Soldiers with two years of college completed towards their degree are considered for two-year scholarships. Soldiers with one year of college completed towards their degree are considered for three-year scholarships.

Those without college credit are considered for four-year scholarships. Green to Gold Scholarship Winners receive:

- Tuition support.
- Additional money for textbooks, supplies, and equipment.
- A monthly stipend of \$200 for up to 10 months each school year.
- Pay for attending the ROTC Advanced Camp between the junior and senior years of college.
- If qualified, Montgomery G.I. Bill / Army College Fund (MGIB/ACF) benefits.

For Requirements access this link:

<http://www.armyocs.com/campus/ad/requirements.htm>

## **TROOPS TO TEACHER**

The goal of Troops to Teachers is to help improve American education by providing mature, motivated, experienced, and dedicated personnel for the nation's classrooms. The objectives of the program are to help relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high needs subject areas; provide positive role models for the nation's public school students; and assist military personnel to successfully transition to teaching as a second career.

Visit this link for information on the Troops to Teacher Program <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/>

## **Cold War Medal/Korean Defense Service Medal**

The latest House Armed Services Committee Press Release states the following:

**"New Service Medals"** After careful consideration, it was decided not to create a Cold War Medal. The **recommendation** to establish the Korea Defense Service Medal (for service members who served in the Republic of Korea or adjacent waters after July 28, 1954) and the Cold War Service Medal (for persons who served honorably on active duty between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991) is still pending approval.

## **Targeted Soldier Reenlistment Bonus Program (TSRB)**

Soldiers reenlisting for a Targeted SRB in Korea will be stabilized for 18 months. Stabilization will commence upon arrival in Korea. For those soldiers already in Korea, the 18-month stabilization will begin on date of reenlistment and must be approved by the overseas command.

These soldiers assigned to Korea under the TSRB will receive a bonus payment. Soldier's who reenlisted for a TSRB will be utilized in an authorized position based on MOS/ASI/SQI/Language, as appropriate, for the authorized stabilization period. **Soldiers who fail to complete the stabilized period are subject to recoupment of the TSRB payment.**

## **Next window for Thrift Savings Plan**

The next window to enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan is 15 May 2002 through 31 July 2002 and again from 15 November through 31 January 2002. Soldiers will be able to enroll in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement savings and investment plan for Federal employees. Congress established the TSP in the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986. The purpose of the TSP is to provide retirement income. The TSP offers

Federal civilian employees the same type of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under so-called "401(k)" plans. TSP regulations are published in title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1600–1699, and are periodically supplemented and amended in the Federal Register.

For more information, check the website:

<http://www.tsp.gov/general/textsitemap.html>